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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Wallem and Company, Hong Kong shipping agents\*\*\*\*, in late 1949. During May 1950 NULANCO purchased from the same company the SS NORBERG, paying in advance a half margin of HK \$250,000. The remainder was to be paid when NULANCO took possession of the vessel, scheduled for 1 June 1950, when she will be renamed EASTERN PRIDE. The new name was for some unknown reason kept secret until late May. The EASTERN VENTURE, captained by a stateless Russian, A. M. Troyan, was in late May 1950 at Honan-ni (127-37, 39-50), North Korea, loading 3,500 tons of iron ore for transshipment to Japan. The EASTERN PRIDE was still outfitting in Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong.

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Comment. This firm is also known as the Choson Marine Transportation Company.

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Comment. A fifth Soviet commercial vessel, the SS SMOLNY, was expected to stop in Hong Kong in June 1950, after having suspended her visits there for a year. It is not known if NULANCO will be the agent. Additional information on the other four ships is as follows:

AIVAZOVSKY, 3240 tons.

POLTAVA, 1830 tons. In February 1950 the captain was reported as Terenty Fomich.

ALDAN, 2160 tons.

AZOV, 1923 tons (2849 gross). In April 1950 the Hong Kong agents were reported to be the Overseas Trading Company, and the master, L. J. Sergeyev.

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Comment. Wallem and Company appear in the 1950 Hong Kong Trade Index as shipowners, steamship agents and coal contractors, in the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Building. Their vessels, the SS NORBERG (ex-NEW CHINA), 5857 tons, and the SS EASTERN VENTURE (ex-LAKE FRUGALITY), 1355 tons, were put under Panamanian registry in January 1950 and August 1949 respectively.

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